IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A controlled release pharmaceutical tablet composition of nimesulide for peroral administration which comprises a fast release layer and an extended release layer which comprises nimesulide as an active drug upto 99% w/w of the tablet composition , one or more release controlling materials from 0.1% to 99% w/w of the tablet composition and pharmaceutical excipients from 0% to 90% w/w of the tablet composition, said nimesulide being present in the fast release layer and in the extended release layer.

2. (Previously presented) A controlled release pharmaceutical tablet composition of nimesulide as claimed in claim 1 which comprises nimesulide as an active drug from 20% to 70% w/w of the
tablet composition, one or more release controlling materials from 5% to 65% of the tablet composition and pharmaceutical excipients from 10% to 70% w/w of the tablet composition.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) A controlled release pharmaceutical tablet composition of nimesulide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the release controlling materials are selected from the group consisting of cellulose and cellulose derivatives, waxes, carbomers, polyalkylene polyols, polycarbophils, methacryclic acid copolymers, gelatins, gums, and polyethylene oxides.

5. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises release modifiers selected from the group consisting of wetting agents, solubilizers, surfactants, plasticizers, pore formers, pH modifiers and tonicity adjusting agents.

6. (Previously presented) A controlled release pharmaceutical tablet composition as claimed in claim 1 which is a gastroretentive system wherein the residence time of the drug is increased in the stomach, duodenum, jejunum or ileum.

7. (Previously presented) The tablet composition as claimed in claim 6 wherein gastroretention of nimesulide is achieved by mucoadhesion, flotation, reducing gastrointestinal motility or a combination thereof.

8. (Previously presented) The tablet composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein mucoadhesion is achieved by treating nimesulide with polymers having affinity for gastrointestinal mucosa said polymers selected from the group consisting of polycarbophils, carbomers, alginates, cellulose and cellulose derivatives, chitosan, gums and lectins.

9. (Previously presented) The tablet composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein flotation is achieved by adding to the composition gas-generating materials selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate, calcium carbonate and potassium carbonate alone or in combination with an acidic substance selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, citric acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid and tartaric acid.

10. (Previously presented) The tablet composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein gastrointestinal motility is reduced by using materials selected from the group consisting of fats, fatty acids and transesterification products of fats and fatty acids with polyols.

11. (Previously presented) A process for the manufacture of a controlled release tablet composition of nimesulide for peroral administration comprising a fast release layer and an extended release layer which comprises mixing together nimesulide as an active drug up to 99% w/w of the tablet composition, one or more release controlling materials from 0.1% to 99% w/w of the tablet composition and pharmaceutical excipients from 0% to 90% w/w of the tablet composition said nimesulide being present in the fast release layer and in the extended release layer.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The controlled release pharmaceutical tablet composition of nimesulide as claimed in claim 2 wherein the release controlling materials are selected from the group consisting of cellulose and cellulose derivatives, waxes, carbomers, polyalkylene polyols, polycarbophils, methacrylic acid copolymers, gelatins, gums and polyethylene oxides.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)